

COCKERMOUTH
Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,
Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector.

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Cockermouth Urban District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1937. To comply with the request of the Ministry of Health, this is drawn up in accordance with Circular 1650, dated 4th October, 1937, and the Registrar General's Memorandum SD/54 received May 4th, 1938.

The Report of your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor is appended.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Charles A. Mason,

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics.

Area (acres), 2,062

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, (mid-1937)
4,833.

Number of inhabited houses (end 1937) according to Rate
Books, 1513.

Rateable Value £22,294.

Sum represented by Penny Rate:—£88

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total	M	F		
Live Births	} Legitimate	65	34	31	} Birth Rate (R.G.)	
	} Illegitimate	3	1	2			14.06.

Still Births	...	3	2	1	Still birth Rate per	
					1,000 total (live and still) births	42.2.

		Total	M	F		
Deaths	...	70	33	37	Crude Death Rate	

Deaths from puerperal causes (childbirth) :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	nil
Other puerperal causes	0	nil
Total ...	0	nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	73.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		61.5
Illegitimate ,, illegitimate ,,		333.3

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	0
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)		0
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		0
,, Cancer 		9

Cockermouth Urban District.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
for the year 1937.

The area of the district in statute acres (land and inland water) is 2,062.

RAINFALL.

Records, taken at Cockermouth Castle, 1937 :—

January	...	3.26	inches of rain fell on	14	days
February	...	3.83	" "	11	"
March	...	.55	" "	4	"
April	...	2.39	" "	8	"
May	...	1.06	" "	3	"
June	...	2.12	" "	8	"
July	...	2.53	" "	13	"
August	...	2.69	" "	6	"
September	...	3.97	" "	11	"
October	...	2.70	" "	13	"
November	...	.89	" "	4	"
December	...	2.06	" "	11	"
Total		28.05	" "	133	"

Heaviest fall in one day—1.28 inches on 5th September.

The average for ten years (1928—1937) was 35.06.

(The total of 28.05 inches of rain for 1937 is approximately 13 inches below the average, as gathered from records kept for many years by the late Dr. Dodgson and the late Josiah Hall, Esq., Cockermouth.)

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's figure for the resident population of the district estimated to the middle of 1937 is 4,833, on which the birth and death rates, etc., are based.

(The figure for 1936 was 4,890)

(The yearly estimates of population provided by the Registrar General are based on the adjusted last Census figures after allowance for births, deaths, and migration.)

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

In the Cocker-mouth Urban District, which is included in the Mid-Cumberland Guardians' Area, the number of persons in receipt of out-door relief was 209, giving a proportion of (approximately) 1 in 23 of the population, as compared with 1 in 22 for 1936, 1 in 26 for 1935, 1 in 25 for 1934, 1 in 23 for 1933, and 1 in 20 for 1932.

4 persons were admitted to Public Assistance Hospital from this district during the year, giving a proportion of 1 in 1208 of the population.

The numbers for 1937 are detailed as follows :—

	Ordinary	Out-door Relief Unemployed.	Total	Indoor Relief
Cocker-mouth U.D.	139	70	209	4
(1936)	126	96	222	5)
(1935)	118	77	195	?)

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS.—There were 68 Live Births (35 males and 33 females) registered as belonging to the district (i.e. after including inward transfers and excluding outward transfers); of these 3 (1 male and 2 females) were illegitimate.

The net live birth rate was accordingly 14.06 per 1000 of the population, compared with 14.1 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Birth Rates, 1937—Cumberland	...	16.0
Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	15.3
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	16.9
England and Wales	...	14.9
Cocker-mouth Rural District	...	15.2
Cocker-mouth Urban District	...	14.06

The Live Birth Rates for the past 10 years in the Cocker-mouth Urban District were :—

Year—	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Rate—	14.06	14.1	14.9	15.5	12.9	11.6	16.9	12.6	18.02	13.7

The percentage of illegitimate live births was 4.4 as compared with 4.3 in 1936.

Percentages of illegitimate live births for the past ten years were :—

Year—	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
% —	4.4	4.3	6.6	1.3	9.5	7.0	9.8	8.4	9.5	10.9

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Males	Females
ALL CAUSES			33	37
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever			
2	Measles	... ..		
3	Scarlet fever	... ..		
4	Whooping-cough	... ..		
5	Diphtheria	... ..		
6	Influenza	... ..		2
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	... ..		
8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	... ..		
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...			3
10	Other tuberculous diseases			
11	Syphilis	... ..		
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis			
13	Cancer, malignant disease		6	3
14	Diabetes	... ..	2	
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.		4	6
16	Heart Disease	... ..	4	8
17	Aneurism	... ..		
18	Other Circulatory diseases		1	3
19	Bronchitis	... ..	1	
20	Pneumonia (all forms)		2	2
21	Other Respiratory diseases			
22	Peptic Ulcer			
23	Diarrhœa, etc (under 2 years)			
24	Appendicitis			1
25	Cirrhosis of liver			
26	Other diseases of liver, etc.			
27	Other digestive diseases		1	
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis			3
29	Puerperal sepsis		—	
30	Other puerperal causes		—	
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.		4	
32	Senility	... ..		
33	Suicide	... ..	1	
34	Other Violence		1	1
35	Other defined diseases		5	5
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown		1	
Special Causes (included in No.35 above)				
	Small-pox	... ..		
	Poliomyelitis	... ..		
	Polioencephalitis	... ..		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age				
	Total	... ..	5	
	Legitimate	... ..	4	
	Illegitimate	... ..	1	
LIVE BIRTHS { TOTAL			35	33
Legitimate			34	31
Illegitimate			1	2
STILL BIRTHS { TOTAL			2	1
Legitimate			2	1
Illegitimate				
POPULATION (for Births & Deaths) 1937—R.G. ...			4,833	

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality in the year 1937.

	Annual Death rate per 1000 population												Rate per 1000 Births
	Birth- Rate per 1000 total population		All Causes		Small-pox	Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fevers	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Influ- enza	Vio- lence	Total Deaths under 1 year
			Crude D.R.	Adjusted D.R.									
England & Wales	14.9	0.60	12.4	—	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.07	0.45	0.54	58
Cumberland	16.0		14.4	13.8									61
Urban Districts...	16.9		13.8	13.9									59
Rural	15.3		14.6	13.3									63
"													
Cockermouth													
Urban Dist.	14.06	0.62	14.4	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.62	73.5

STILL BIRTHS.—3 still births (all legitimate) were also registered giving a still birth rate of 0.62 per 1000 of the population as compared with 0.40 for 1936. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.60).

The still birth rate per 1000 total live and still births was 42.2, as compared with 28.1 for 1936.

Still birth rates per 1000 population for past ten years :—

Year —	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Rate —	.62	.40	.59	.41	.20	.20	.62	.nil	.85	.42

Still birth rates per 1000 total live and still births for past ten years :—

Year—	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928 :—
Rate—	42.2	28.1	38.4	25.9	15.6	17.2	35.7	nil.	45.4	30.3

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Cockermouth was 70 (i.e. after correcting for non-residents dying within the Cockermouth Urban district and for those persons whose usual residence was in Cockermouth, dying without the town). This gives a crude death rate of 14.48 per 1000 of the population as compared with 13.7 for the previous year.

By multiplying the crude death rate figure by an adjusting factor ("The Population Handicap") supplied by the Registrar General the Adjusted Death Rate is arrived at, i.e. the crude death rate adjusted, in so far as sex and age group components of the population are concerned, so as to make it comparable from a mortality point of view with the crude death rate of the country as a whole or with the mortality of any other local area similarly modified. (The adjusting or Areal Comparability Factor, was again .84) The resulting adjusted death rate (see below) for Cockermouth will be noticed to be 2.3 below the crude death rate.

Comparisons :—

	Crude	Adjusted
Death Rates, 1937—Cumberland ...	14.4	13.8
Rural Districts of Cumberland ...	14.6	13.3
Urban Districts of Cumberland ...	13.8	13.9
England and Wales ...	12.4	—
Cockermouth Rural District ...	13.8	13.2
Cockermouth Urban District	14.48	12.16

The Crude Death Rates for the past 10 years in the Cockermouth Urban District were :—

Year —	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Rate —	14.4	13.7	13.9	15.5	16.8	15.3	18.38	13.08	19.0	14.1

(For causes of death during the year see table on page 7.)

(For comparisons table of birth rates, death rates and analysis of mortality see page 8.)

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 5* deaths (4 males legitimate and 1 male illegitimate) among infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 73.5 per 1000 births as compared with 57.9 for 1936.

*This figure includes inward transfers but not outward transfers, of course.

One death occurred among illegitimate infants, so that the Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate for 1937 was 333.3 per 1000 illegitimate births, as compared with the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate of 61.5 per 1000 legitimate births. These latter rates were respectively 333.3 and 45.4 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1937 :—

Cumberland	...	61
Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	63
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	59
England and Wales	...	58
Cockermouth Rural District	...	66.1
Cockermouth Urban District	...	73.5

The Infantile Mortality Rates for the past 10 years in the Cockermouth Urban District were :

Year—1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Deaths— 5	4	3	5	13	2	11	8	4	3
Rate—73.5	57.9	40.0	66.6	206	35	135	135	47	45

Net Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age:—

Cause of Death	under 1 wk.	2—3 weeks	Total under 4 wks	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total under 1 yr.
Premature Birth	1	1	2					2
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1		1					1
Pulmonary Atelectasis	1		1					1
Shock after Scalds						1		1
								5

SENILE DEATH RATE.

39 persons had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This number represents a Senile death rate of 55.7 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 56.7 for 1936.

Out of the total 39 deaths :

7 (3 m 4f)	persons died between the ages of	65 and 70 years
8 (5 m 3f)	„ „ „	70 and 75 years
14 (6 m 8f)	„ „ „	75 and 80 years
3 (m)	„ „ „	80 and 85 years
6 (2m 4f)	„ „ „	85 and 90 years
1 (f)	person died at	96 years of age

Senile death rates for the past 10 years :—

Year—1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Rate—55.7	56.7	65.7	57.3	46.3	68.0	55.6	52.4	51.1	50.0

INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS & VIOLENCE.

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year there were 3 inquests (all of which were held within the district). An inquest was also held within the district in respect of 2 non-residents.

One Coroner's certificate was received of a case where post-mortem examinations had been made but no inquest held.

Two deaths were uncertified.

Inquests for past 10 years:—

Year—1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Inquests - 3	2	5	1	1	2	6	3	1	3

VIOLENCE.—With reference to the Violence death-rate of 0.62 for Cockermouth Urban District, as compared 0.54 for all England and Wales (see table page 8) I give below a table showing the number of deaths from Suicide, Other Violence and the Total Violence deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates of each per 1000 of the population for the past ten years :

SUICIDE—										
Years	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Deaths	1	2	nil	nil	nil	1	nil	1	nil	nil
% all causes-	1.42	2.98	nil	nil	nil	1.33	nil	1.63	nil	nil
Death-rate—	.20	.40	nil	nil	nil	.20	nil	.21	nil	nil
OTHER VIOLENCE—										
Deaths	2	nil	5	1	2	1	4	2	1	1
% all causes-	2.85	nil	7.14	1.33	2.43	1.33	4.54	3.27	1.12	1.51
Death-rate—	.41	nil	.99	.20	.41	.20	.83	.42	.21	.21
TOTAL VIOLENCE—										
Deaths	3	2	5	1	2	2	4	3	1	1
% all causes-	4.28	2.98	7.14	1.33	2.43	2.66	4.54	4.91	1.12	1.51
Death-rate—	.62	.40	.99	.20	.41	.40	.83	.64	.21	.21

The 3 violence deaths during the year under review include 1 due to scalds (accid.), 1 to a street accident, and 1 to poisoning (coal gas—suicide.)

CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 9 cases, as follows:—

System	Primary Organ	Males	Females	Years
Alimentary	Stomach	4	1	45, 57, 60 & 72
	Bowel			
Reproductive	Uterus	1	2	72
Integumentary	Nose		—	43 & 64
	Lip	1		86
Totals		6	3	87

This number corresponds to a cancer death rate of 1.86 per 1000 of the population as compared with 1.84 in 1936.

Approximately out of every 8 deaths of persons in this district 1 was due to cancer.

The cancer deaths and death rates for the past ten years were :

Year—	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Deaths—	9	9	6	10	8	15	7	8	8	3
Rate —	1.86	1.84	1.19	2.06	1.6	3.06	1.4	1.7	1.7	.6

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Zymotic Death Rate, or the death rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases for 1937 was nil per 1000 of the population as compared with .20 for the preceding year.

The following are the Zymotic diseases referred to :

Zymotic Disease.	No. of Deaths.
Smallpox	...
Measles	...
Whooping Cough	...
Diphtheria	...
Scarlet Fever	...
Fever :—Typhus	...
Typhoid	...
Para-typhoid	...
Diarrhoea	...

Total 0

Table showing Zymotic Death Rates for past ten years :—

Year —	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Rate —	nil	.2	nil	.2	.2	.2	nil	.4	.2	.2

TUBERCULOSIS.

(Vide also page 23).

There were 3 deaths due to Tuberculosis :—

	Males	Females
Respiratory System	...	3
Non-Pulmonary	...	0

One of the above was of a previously notified case in this district.

The total gives a tuberculosis (all forms) death rate of .62 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 1.02 for 1936.

The "Consumption" (i.e. Pulmonary Tuberculosis) Death rate is also 0.62 per 1000 of the population, as compared with last year's figure of 0.61.

The Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rates for the past ten years were :—

Year—	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Rate—	.6	.6	.99	1.0	1.2	.2	1.04	.2	.8	1.2

.....

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Particulars relating to the following eight items (under the above heading) remain as detailed in my 1930 and subsequent reports:—

- (i) **Hospitals.**
- (ii) **Nursing in the Home.**
- (iii) **Maternity.**
- (iv) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**
- (v) **Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children.**
- (vi) **Institutional Provision for the care of Mental Defectives.**
- (vii.) **Legislation in Force**
- (viii) **Ambulance Facilities.**

(N.B.—An agreement was entered into with the Cockermouth Rural District Council for Ambulance facilities—the Cockermouth Urban Council to pay a retaining fee of £40 per annum and a “turn out” fee of 10s. This is a welcome addition to the town’s social services.)

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.
2. One Sanitary Inspector who is also the Surveyor and Water Engineer. After nearly two months without this official, on January 21st, Mr. James Sharples, Cert. S.I.B., commenced duties but left at the end of July to take up another appointment. On 1st September, Mr. Wm. Nicholls, A.M.I.M. and C.E., A.R. San I., took over.
3. Temporary Housing Officer—Mr. James Forbes, Cert. S.I. (Scot.), commenced duties 1st. November and left at Christmas to take up another appointment. The post was again advertised (and at the time of writing I am able to say that Mr. W. F. Dodds, A.R. San. I., was appointed and commenced duties January 31st, 1938.)

Mr. Maurice Dixon, who was clerk in the Surveyor’s office and assisted in the duties of the department, resigned on June 30th to take up another appointment, and his successor, Mr. Glyn Richards, commenced work on September 1st.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following table shows the amount of work done in connection with investigations of certain cases of illness during the year, 1937 :—

Material	Test applied for—	Result :	
		Pos.	Neg
Throat or nose swabs ...	Diphtheria	0	2
Sputum ...	Tuberculosis	3	1

The Council still has arrangements with the Clinical Research Association, Ltd., London, for examination and report on throat swabs, specimens of sputum, blood, etc., but the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory at the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, is mainly made use of.

.....

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

The amount of Crummock Water used by Cockermouth Urban District during the year under review was approximately 87½ million gallons (over 10½ million gallons more than in 1936).

The consumption of water per head of the population using the water was approximately 47 gallons a day. (The amount used in 1928 was approximately 116 million gallons or 68 gallons a day per head of the population).

EXTENSION OF MAIN.—100 yards of new water main (3 inch) were laid to housing estates off Lorton Road, belonging to Messrs J. Twiname and Son, and to Messrs T. Armstrong and Co.

MAIN SCRAPING. 350 yards in the Goat were scraped during the summer.

The Reservoir on the Moor was cleaned out in November.

A scheme (mentioned in my last year's report) is still under consideration to provide a better pressure in the higher parts of the district by pumping from the existing reservoir on the Moor to a proposed new reservoir behind The Towers on the Lorton Road, from which the water will gravitate to those parts that up to the present have been inadequately served.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage effluent from the Outfall Works remained satisfactory. Several market gardeners continued to cart away the dried sludge for their own use free of cost.

SEWER EXTENSIONS.—The following were carried out during 1937 :—

- 70 yds. of 6 inch sewer along Vicarage Lane, Lorton Road.
- 60 yds. of 6 inch. sewer along Lorton Road to Messrs J. Twiname and Son's housing estate.

A scheme to provide a main sewer in the Goat area with a pumping station to enable the sewage to be discharged into the town's main sewer on the main road at the south end of Derwent Bridge, was commenced in November.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—No change to report.

PUBLIC LAVATORIES.—The question of providing up-to-date public lavatories (for both sexes) has engaged the attention of the Council for some time past. A site has now been purchased in Main Street and plans are being prepared

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The circumstances relating to the fouling of waterways within the urban boundary remain much the same as previously reported, and it appears that only drastic action will remedy matters.

Bitter Beck was cleaned out by the Council workmen during May.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

The method of scavenging and removal of refuse proceeds as formerly; collection is bi-weekly.

The same method applies to the removal of house refuse in the Goat area where, also, night soil is removed by contract.

Removal of refuse is by ordinary horse-drawn, open carts, provided with waterproof covers.

Improper and insanitary types of refuse-receptacle are still too generally used—a complaint which has been a feature of my annual reports for a number of years. The Council have now given consideration to section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (which came into operation on October 1st, 1937) for enforcing the provision of proper sanitary refuse receptacles by owners (and at the time of writing the Council has decided to provide their own tenants with suitable bins).

REFUSE TIP (Tarn Close):—

As far as possible, with the staff available, controlled tipping has been aimed at and there has been some improvement.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

It was not until the end of the third week in January—from 30th November, 1936, when Mr. A. P. Roberts left—that Mr. Jas. Sharples commenced duties. The latter resigned at the end of July; then on September 1st Mr Wm. Nicholls arrived (vide Public Health Staff p. 13). It will be appreciated no doubt that with such departmental history it has been no easy task for Mr. Nicholls to pick up the threads, as it were. Nevertheless he has got into harness well, and is a willing and helpful co-operator. I gratefully acknowledge here his assistance in the making of this report at the end of which will be found his Summary of Work done—in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 67 on the register (14 bakehouses included). Inspections—50 visits in all—were made from time to time by the Sanitary Inspector, and no serious defects were noted by him.

Premises.	Number	Inspections	Defects Found	Written Notices.	Defects Remedied	Prosecutions
Factories ...	13	15	—	—	—	—
Workshops	54	35	--	--	—	—
Workplaces (other than Out-workers' premises)	1	1	—	—	—	—

There is still the one establishment of a Knaeker and Fellmonger within the Urban District; frequent visits of inspection continue to be made to it.

SHOPS.

No special action under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934, was taken regarding ventilation, temperature or sanitary conveniences.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

In this district there are no (a) public or (b) privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public.

(At the time of writing a public open-air swimming pool has been incorporated in a lay out plan which the Council has had prepared for a proposed scheme of playing fields, etc., on the North side of the river Derwent near the Derwent Mills).

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Regarding the problem of the above, no cases have been reported and therefore no action has been taken.

SCHOOLS.

SANITARY CONDITION AND WATER SUPPLY.

All the Cockermouth Schools are on the town's water supply and water-carriage sewerage system.

Trough closets still exist in Fairfield School; these have often been commented upon, and it is time that the same were converted to the independent pedestal type.

RATS & MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The Sanitary Inspector co-operates with officials of the County Council. Poison is available at the Health Department offices at the Town Hall free of charge. The refuse tip continues to be periodically baited with rat poison.

It behoves the occupiers of all premises infested with rats or mice to take advantage of the facilities offered for the extermination of this vermin. In some instances nothing short of determined action to the extent of thoroughly ratproofing such premises will be of any avail,

There has been a steady demand for rat-poison the whole year round. During National Rat week (1st—6th November) special efforts were made including the displaying of printed posters relating to rat infestation and destruction.

.....

Housing.

Housing conditions with regard to working-class dwellings remains much the same, but of course Slum Clearance is now under way.

The erection of 50 houses was commenced on the land adjoining Windmill Lane, to provide for displaced tenants in connexion with slum clearance.

The Council decided to employ a Housing Officer to try to speed up housing work in connection with slum clearance and on November 1st, Mr. Jas Forbes came in this capacity but unfortunately was not here long (see Public Health Staff, page). A successor has since been appointed.

(At the time of writing, at any rate, representations have been submitted regarding 121 unfit houses and 9 other buildings, Clearance Areas defined, and a Public Inquiry expected in due course).

Over and above those houses already scheduled under Slum Clearance there are still some houses (including individual unfit) that will have to be dealt with, and if these are to be tackled soon the necessary work entailed should be included in the services of the Housing Officer.

Twelve new houses were built in Cockermouth in 1937—all by private enterprise :

Vicarage Lane (Lorton Road)	6
Sunscales " "	4
Moor Area ...	2

HOUSING (Rural Workers) ACT, 1926.

This temporary Act is due to expire 24th June, 1938, but through a bill at present before Parliament, extension of the Act is expected.

No further advantage taken of the opportunities offered can be reported for 1937, which is very disappointing.

For some years past I have pointed out the excellent opportunities available under this Act (by way of grants and/or loans—see below.) I had hoped that considerable use would have been made of the Act, as there is plenty of house property which could be dealt with under it by schemes of reconditioning and improvement, thus saving it from possible future condemnation and demolition.

Financial assistance from the County Council (which is the authority primarily responsible for the administration of the Act), can be obtained for the reconditioning of existing houses or the con-

version of buildings into houses for agricultural labourers and those of similar economic standing. Such assistance can be provided by grants and /or loans to owners willing to carry out approved works such as :—

- (a) Structural alterations.
- (b) Additions.
- (c) Provision of Water Supply.
- (d) Drainage.
- (e) Sanitary conveniences and other like works.
- (f) Such other work as the County Council may deem to fall within the scope of the Act.

Housing Appendix.

(in accordance with Circular 1650 Ministry of Health, 4th Oct., 1937)

STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts 53
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 53
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 —
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... —
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 53
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 15
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 20
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—
 - (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936— 0
 - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts: 0
 - (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936— o

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part iv., —Overcrowding :—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	43
	(ii.)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	45
	(iii.)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	265
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year		4
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year		—
	(ii.)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	—
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	—
(e)		The Ministry of Health fixed January 1st, 1937, as the "Appointed Day" for the application of the Act as to overcrowding.		

From this date it is an offence for any dwellinghouse used by members of the working classes or suitable for such use to be overcrowded—with defined exceptions—and every rent book or similar document must contain a summary in the prescribed form of the provisions of the Act relating to offences, etc., and also a statement of the number of persons permitted to sleep in the house.

The duty is thereby imposed upon the local Authority to supply the "Permitted Number" for each house to which the Act applies. At the end of the year certificates of permitted numbers had been supplied in respect of 297 houses.

39 more houses were surveyed and of these 4 were found overcrowded according to the Act. Two of these are expected to be dealt with under Slum Clearance. (Slum Clearance, of course, will abate a number of overcrowding cases and I consider the Council is justified in giving slum clearance priority meanwhile).

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

There were 12 registered milksellers whose premises were within the Urban District, including 5 producers and retailers, 1 producer wholesaler, 6 retail purveyors. Inspections are made periodically and endeavour is made to get improvements carried out to dairy premises where necessary.

A large quantity of the town's milk supply is retailed by producers and retailers whose premises are situated in the surrounding Rural District. There were 10 of such producers and retailers during 1937.

The following table gives the result of 39 samples of milk retailed in the town and taken by the Sanitary Inspector, and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

Of the above 39 samples, 25 were satisfactory and 14 unsatisfactory in relation to dirt contamination, as follows :—

	Satisfactory according to Accredited Standard. †	Unsatisfactory according to Accredited Standard. †	Total
Samples produced in Urban District	11	6	17
„ „ outside „ „	14	8	22
	—	—	—
	25	14	39

The 14 unsatisfactory samples comprised :—

- 8 failing the Methyline Blue Reduction test only ;
- 2 „ B. Coli test only (i.e showing B. Coli in 2 or 3 tubes out of 3), and
- 4 „ Combined tests

Tubercle bacilli were reported to be present in a grouped sample taken at latter end of November, from two retailers whose milk was satisfactory regarding dirt contamination.

Ten of the above samples were from milk supplied to schools in the district, 6 being satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

Where results are unsatisfactory as to cleanliness suitable action is taken with a view to securing improvement. On a sample of milk being reported as tubercular, the matter has hitherto been taken in hand by the County Veterinary Officer. From the end of the year this work comes directly under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. I am kindly informed by Mr John Cameron, Veterinary Officer of that Authority, that in so far as the Urban District of Cockermouth was concerned, no cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, during the year under review

In accordance with an agreement with the County Council, the sampling of designated milks 4 times a year, and schools' milk 3 times a year, as well as 30 routine samples including repeat samples, was aimed at.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, came into force on June 1st, revoked the Milk (Special Designations) Orders of 1923 and 1934, and substituted for the old designations (Grade A, etc.) the following :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk (this milk may be pasteurised and is then described as "Tuberculin Tested Milk Pasteurised"),
Accredited Milk,
Pasteurised Milk.

Certain conditions must be complied with before licences can be granted to producers and dealers.

The production and retailing of milk under "Special Designation" in the Cockermouth Urban District is as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested—John Cook, Fitz Road—Retailer		
Accredited — Cockermouth Dairy Co., Ltd.—		
	J. Simpson, Dovenby Craggs—	„
	Isaac Cook, Strawberry Howe—Producer	
	J. C. Fox, Waterloo Farm—	„
Wm. Cook Annfield—	Producer	and Retailer
J Christopherson, Sneckyeat	„	„
J. Wright, Brigham	„	„

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are still 3 Private Slaughter-houses (2 registered, 1 licensed), and the Council's Public Abattoir. Frequent inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector.

One whole carcase of a beast, 3 calves ("Slink Veal"), 1 flukey beast liver, were condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1937—these were all voluntarily surrendered by the butchers concerned.

In the Cockermouth Urban District there are 13 slaughtermen licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

BAKEHOUSES.—These are occasionally inspected and generally found clean. There are still 14 altogether, of which 5 are considered domestic in type. No serious defects are reported.

.....

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1937, in the Cockermouth Urban District, including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis, Pneumonia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Encephalitis Lethargica, Poliomyelitis, Chicken-pox, and Cerebro-spinal Fever, was 6.

All six were tubercular cases so that, apart from Tuberculosis, there were no notifications received.

According to records it has never happened before that a year has passed without a notification of some acute infectious (notifiable) disease in the Cockermouth Urban District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1937

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases notified 1937 admitted to hospital	Deaths
Small-pox ...	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0(1936-4)	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	0(1936-1)	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Para-Typhoid)	0	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	0 (1936-2)	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0
Tuberculosis :—			
Pulmonary { Males	1	0	0
{ Females	3	2 (San.)	0
{ Total	4	2 "	0
Non-Pulmonary { Males	2	1 (Hosp)	0
{ Females	0	0 "	0
{ Total	2	1 "	0

Table showing monthly incidence of notifiable diseases, 1937

Disease	Jan	Feb.	Mar	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Tuberculosis :													
Pulmonary		1			2			1					1— 5
Other Forms		1											— 1

From notifications received it is deduced that one in every 805 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act (Chicken-pox excluded) and the Tuberculosis Regulations. (Last year's figure : 1 in 445 ; in 1915 they were 1 in 82, and in 1891 (excluding Tuberculosis Notifications) they were 1 in 60).

Comparison ease rates and death rates of the following diseases are given as usual:—

Scarlet Fever.—The ease rates and death rates per 1,000 of the population were nil, as compared with 0.20 and nil, respectively for 1936. The corresponding rates for all England and Wales (1937) were 2.33 and 0.01.

Diphtheria.—The ease rates and death rates per 1,000 of the population were nil, as compared with 0.81 and 0.20, respectively, for 1936. The corresponding rates for England and Wales (1937) were 1.49 and 0.07.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—The case rate for Puerperal Pyrexia (including Puerperal Fever) is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate is :—Puerperal Pyrexia nil

per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still births) registered during the year as compared with nil for 1936. The corresponding rate (1937) for England and Wales was 13.93.

There were again no Maternal deaths—corresponding, therefore, to a Maternal Mortality Rate of nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births—the same as in the two previous years. The rate (1937) for England and Wales was 3.11.

Pneumonia.—Although no notifications were received it may be mentioned that 4 deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) were registered.

TUBERCULOSIS —Under the Tuberculosis Regulations 4 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (1 male and 3 females) and 2 of other forms of Tuberculosis (both males) were notified.

Of these cases—notified during the year—2 (pulmonary) were admitted to Sanatorium, whilst 1 non-pulmonary case was admitted to the Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital. One (pulmonary) case notified previous to 1937, was re-admitted to Sanatorium.

The following table gives the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1937 :—

Age		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 —and upwards	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	...	1	3	2	0	0	3	—	0

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 12.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1937 was as follows :

		Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	...	5	8	13
Non-pulmonary	...	2	3	5
All Cases	...	7	11	18

No action has been required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to powers regarding persons suffering from Tuberculosis of the respiratory tract, and in an infectious state, and employed in connexion with a dairy or the handling of milk or milk vessels.

With reference to the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, regarding compulsory removal to hospital or institution, no action has been taken.

No action has been taken with regard to the use of the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever, and no immunisation scheme has been carried out.

The following is a comparison table of Infectious diseases notified during the past ten years :—

Disease.	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Typhoid Fever					1					1
Diphtheria		4								
Scarlet Fever		1	2	4	16		14	1	4	5
Puerperal Fever								1	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia			1					1		
Pneumonia				1		1		1	1	4
Erysipelas		2		3	2	2	4			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum						2	3	1		1
C.-S. Meningitis						2				
Tuberculosis :—										
Pulmonary	4	3	3	3	2	7	7	10	5	5
Other Forms	2	1			2	3	1	3	1	1

NON-NOTIFIABLE ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES. — Epidemics usually occur in conjunction with epidemics in the districts adjoining.

Influenza was rife, particularly in the first quarter of the year, and all the public elementary schools were closed in consequence for a period (25th January—5th February).

Two deaths occurred, corresponding to an Influenza death-rate of .41 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 1 death and a death rate of .20 in 1936. (The rate, 1937, for all England and Wales was .45).

There were again no deaths from either Measles or Whooping Cough, and neither disease was epidemic. The death rate of each per 1000 of the population was nil (the respective death rates for all England and Wales being 0.02 and 0.04).

In the past ten years there have only been two deaths from Whooping Cough (1 each in 1930 and 1933), and one from Measles (in 1934).

SUMMARY
OF WORK DONE
BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
During the year 1937.

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical
Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article xix. of the
Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

NUISANCES:

Nuisances reported to Council	...	nil
Notices served after inspection	...	20
Notices complied with	...	20

Detailed Sanitary Work:

Choked drains, defective I.C.'s and gullies		9
New I.C.'s laid to drainage systems	...	1
Damp and defective roof, etc.	...	3
Additional W.C.'s	... ..	5
New bathrooms	... ..	2
Housing Inspections	... ..	53
Factories and Workshops inspections	...	50
Visits to Knackery	... ..	23

Plans were approved during 1937 for the following:—

Alterations and additions to the Globe Hotel for North British Trust Hotels.

Dwelling-house, Brigham Road, for Miss Gunn.

Alterations and additions to Simonscales for Mr. F. Gibson.

Three garages, Brigham Road, for Mr. J. Courtier, Mrs. E. K. Williamson, Mr. L. L. Williamson.

84 Dwelling-houses, Lorton Road, for Mr. J. Twiname

Dwelling-house, Castle Drive, for Mr. V. Turver

8 Dwelling-houses, Lorton Road, for Mr. A. Horne.

2 Dwelling-houses Cocker Brows, for Mr. J. Twiname.

4 Dwelling-houses, Lorton Road, for Mr. J. Twiname.

Alterations to Broadmoor House, for Mid-Cumberland Electricity Co. Ltd.

New Bathroom at Kirkgate for Miss Fletcher.

New Bathroom "Brown Cow Hotel" for the Workington Brewery Co. Ltd.

Alterations and additions to Anchor Inn for Messrs Jennings Bros.

Shop and Office extension to the Royal Garage, Crown Street, for Mr. R. Wild.

Garage in Challoner Street for Mr. W. Lindsay.

Alterations and Additions to No. 8—16, Waterloo Street, for Mr. J. W. Robinson.

Conversion of existing building into Bakehouse for Mr. R. Armstrong.

2 Dwelling-houses on land adjoining Cocker Brows, for Mr. J. Twiname.

WM. NICHOLLS,

A.M.I.M. & C.E., A.R. San. I.,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector
(from 1st Sept., 1937.)

